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In the Claims

1. (currently amended) A self-cleaning, ventilated brake rotor comprising:  
a first and second annular braking surfaces jointly defining inner and outer circumferential surfaces and a central portion;  
a first, elongated surface slot provided on the first annular braking surface, said slot having a length and a width and extending from said central portion to an outer periphery of said rotor; [[and]]  
a first opening having a size smaller than the length of the first surface slot wherein all or a portion of the first opening being provided within the first slot~~[[.]]~~; and  
said slot terminating adjacent to but short of and spaced from said outer periphery and central portion of said rotor.
2. (original) The rotor according to claim 1, further comprising a hat portion disposed in the central portion and adapted for mounting the rotor to a vehicle.
3. (canceled)
4. (currently amended) The brake rotor according to claim 1, wherein the first opening includes a width or radius equal to or smaller than the width of the first surface slot.
- 5-8. (canceled)
9. (currently amended) The brake rotor according to claim 8, wherein a ~~[[the]]~~ flow channel is provided between the inner and outer circumferential surfaces.
10. (original) The brake rotor according to claim 9, wherein the flow channel is defined by a pair of vanes provided between the inner and outer circumferential surfaces.
11. (currently amended) The brake rotor according to claim 1, further comprising a plurality of vanes provided between the inner and outer circumferential surfaces, wherein at least a pair of vanes defines a flow channel having a first flow channel opening provided near the central region and a second flow channel opening provided near

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a periphery of the brake rotor, wherein the first opening fluid communicates with said first opening ~~the vent~~ via the flow channel.

12. (currently amended) The brake rotor according to claim 1, further comprising a second ~~surface~~ slot provided for on the second annular surface having a length and a width and a second opening having a size smaller than the length of the first ~~surface~~ slot, wherein all or a portion of the second opening being provided within the second slot and wherein the second opening fluid communicates with the first opening ~~and/or the vent~~.

13. (currently amended) The brake rotor according to claim 12, wherein the second opening includes a width or radius equal to or smaller than the width of the second ~~surface~~ slot.

14. (canceled)

15. (original) The brake according to claim 12, wherein the second slot corresponds in size and position to a size and position of the first slot.

16-19. (canceled)

20. (original) The brake rotor according to claim 1, wherein all or a portion of the first slot is substantially straight.

21. (original) The brake rotor according to claim 1, wherein the first slot includes a curve.

22-49. (canceled)

50. (currently amended) A self-cleaning, ventilated brake rotor comprising:  
a first and second annular braking surfaces jointly defining inner and outer circumferential surfaces and a central portion;

a hat portion disposed on the central portion and adapted for mounting said rotor to a vehicle;

a plurality of vanes provided between the inner and outer circumferential surfaces, wherein a plurality of corresponding flow channels are defined between at least a pair of

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vanes of the plurality of vanes, and wherein each flow channel includes a first flow channel opening provided near the central region and a second flow channel opening provided near a periphery of the brake rotor;

a plurality of first surface slots provided on the first annular braking surface, each having a length and a width and extending from said central portion to said outer periphery;

a plurality of second surface slots provided on the second annular braking surface, each having a length and a width with corresponding to a respective first slot of the plurality of first slots, said second slots extending from said central portion to said outer periphery;

at least one first opening provided within at least one of the first surface slots and having a size smaller than the length of the corresponding first surface slot, and all or a portion of a respective first opening being provided within a corresponding first surface slot; [[and]]

at least one second opening provided within at least one of the second surface slots and having a size smaller than the length of the corresponding second surface slot, and all or a portion of a respective second opening being provided within a corresponding second surface slot, wherein each second opening of each second slot corresponds substantially to and fluid communicates with a first opening of a first slot[[.]] ; and

said first and second slots terminating short of and spaced from an outer periphery and said central portion of said rotor.

51-53. (canceled)

54. (currently amended) A vehicle having a disc braking system including one or more disc brake rotors, each rotor comprising:

a first and second annular braking surfaces on opposite sides of said rotor, jointly defining inner and outer circumferential surfaces and said rotor having a central portion;

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~~a first surface~~ an elongated slot provided on each of said the first annular braking surfaces, ~~surface each elongated slot~~ having a length, first and second ends and a width with a first end of each slot adjacent to and spaced from said central portion and the second end of each slot adjacent to and spaced from an outer periphery of said rotor; and each slot in said first and second annular braking surfaces having openings for communicating with a slot on an opposite braking surface.

~~a first opening having a size smaller than the length of the first surface slot,~~  
~~wherein all or a portion of which being provided within the first surface slot; and~~

~~a second opening, in fluid communication with the first opening and the second annular braking surface.~~

55. (currently amended) A vehicle having a disc brake system including one or more disc brake rotors, each rotor comprising:

~~[[a]] first and second annular braking surfaces jointly defining inner and outer circumferential surfaces on opposite sides of said rotor, [[and]] said rotor having a central portion;~~

~~a hat portion disposed in the central portion and adapted for mounting said rotor to a vehicle;~~

~~a plurality of vanes provided between the inner and outer circumferential surfaces, wherein a plurality of corresponding flow channels are defined between at least a pair of vanes of the plurality of vanes, and wherein each flow channel includes a first flow channel opening provided near the central region and a second flow channel opening provided near a periphery of the brake rotor;~~

~~a plurality of first surface elongated slots each having a length and a width and being provided on the first annular braking surface;~~

~~a plurality of second surface elongated slots each having a length and a width and being provided on the second annular braking surface corresponding to the plurality of first slots;~~

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at least one first opening having a size smaller than the length of the first surface slot, wherein all or a portion of which being provided within each first surface slot; [[and]]

at least one second opening having a size smaller than the length of the second surface slot, wherein all or a portion of which being provided within each second surface slot, wherein each second opening of each second slot corresponds substantially to and fluid communicates with a first opening of a first slot[[.]] ; and

said slots terminating short of and spaced from said periphery and central portion of said rotor, and directed generally at or close to right angles to said vanes.